

AVALANCHE ADVISORY

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

FORECASTER: Morgan

IDAHO PANHANDLE AVALANCHE CENTER

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/25/2011

DATE ISSUED: 03/25/2011 0730

OUTLOOK: 03/26-27/2011

This report does not apply to local ski areas within the forecast region and the hazard rating will remain valid through midnight March 25th, 2011. Special thanks to Idaho Parks and recreation for sponsoring this Avalanche advisory.

Throughout the forecast region, conditions are generally stable with isolated instabilities in wind loaded areas. Potential exists for triggering deeper slab avalanches associated with the MLK crust during daytime temperatures above freezing.


WEATHER

TODAY: 80 percent chance of snow today across our forecast region 1-3 inches in the North and 2-4 in the South, temperatures will be in the low 30's in the North and upper 30's in the Southern area, and winds will be blowing out of the south and southwest 5-8 becoming calm


TONIGHT: Temperatures will drop into the 20's in the mountains, with a 60 percent chance of 1 inch snow accumulation with light winds out of the southwest.

SATURDAY: Saturday and Sunday the outlook calls for a better than average chance of another few inches of snow, temperatures at freezing in the northern area and above freezing during the day in the southern forecast area, and light S/SW winds. Snowfall is expected through Sunday, picking up an inch or two during the days and in the night throughout the weekend in the mountains. **The avalanche danger may increase if solar radiation becomes significant on southern aspects.**

Selkirks and Cabinet mountains: Yesterday, we experienced periods of sunshine, wind, and light snowfall north of Jeru Peak in the Selkirks. On a NW aspect at 6500' we found some surface hoar sitting on a breakable crust. This may be of concern with predicted new snow on aspects that are sheltered from wind and sun resulting in buried surface hoar. At 1.5' deep there is a denser wind slab of snow that sits on a significantly lighter snow where we were able to produce moderate shears. On Sundance Mountain Lisa and Mike found a more responsive similar layer at 2' on a west aspect. Deeper in the pack, at about 3' deep our future concern is triggering the MLK crust over faceted snow during periods of intense daytime heating especially after night time freezing. This layering exists on all aspects. Avalanche danger is rated **MODERATE** with pockets of **CONSIDERABLE** on windloaded aspects steeper than 35 degrees above 5,000 feet.

2 Moderate		Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features. Evaluate snow and terrain carefully; identify features of concern	Natural avalanches unlikely; human-triggered avalanches possible.	Small avalanches in specific areas; or large avalanches in isolated areas.
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St. Regis Basin and Silver valley: Carole and Dan experience mostly safe conditions with a well consolidated snowpack on the North aspects and softer snow on the Southerly in the Dominion Creek drainage. Avalanche danger is rated as **LOW** on slopes less than 35 degrees and **MODERATE** on all slopes greater than 35 degrees.

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Temperatures will be warming up during the day and freezing at night with light and slow snow accumulations throughout the weekend. Watch the protected aspects with increasing snow accumulations on the surface hoar and ice crust.

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The next advisory will be issued on April 1st, 2011.